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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

JANUARY 14, 1868.

Read and ordered to be printed.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,

Chief Clerk.

PETITION

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF

Brookerville Academy.

ANNAPOLIS:

WM. THOMPSON OF R., PRINTER.

1868.

[Dorchester, 2]

BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

PETITION

THE STATES

Greenough & Co.

W. H. THOMPSON & Co. Printers

PETITION.

BROOKEVILLE, January 6, 1868.

To the Honorable,

The House of Delegates of Maryland:

The Trustees of Brookeville Academy having purchased a tract of 40 acres at the distance of half a mile from the village, intend to erect an academy of the first class, surrounded by every object that will tend to refine and elevate the mind. In the proposed building, there will be separate dormitories for the boarders, each dormitory containing two boys; there will be a commodious school room and recitation room furnished with globes, charts and philosophical apparatus. In the rear of the building a gymnasium will be erected; for games, there will be a base ball and croquet ground, and in a beautiful grove at the south of the tract, a bathing and skating pond will be excavated. Around the edifice, there will be a picturesque park of 10 acres, laid out in the English style under the superintendence of the Principal, a graduate of Jesus College, Cambridge. In the park, surrounded by an orange osage hedge, will be planted shady avenues, groups of trees and flowering shrubs, so that the youthful mind may be purified by the beauties of nature.

To accomplish these great objects, and render the Academy one of the most desirable in the State for beauty of situation and salubrity of climate, the trustees have, with much difficulty, raised \$5,000; yet, as this sum will not be sufficient, they solicit your Honorable Body for a grant of \$5,000 on the following grounds:

1st. The Trustees at their own expense erected the stone academy, and supported the teachers from 1812 to 1836. At this last period, when \$200 were given yearly by the State, they added a second story to the academy and purchased the present boarding-house. Afterwards, when the grant was increased to \$600 per annum, they put an addition to the boarding-house at the cost of \$1,000, and have now, through

their careful management of the State bounty, purchased the tract of 40 acres. Thus they have been enabled to keep the school in successful operation, as without a boarding-house an academy is only of local benefit. Thus Brookeville Academy has given education to youths from the various counties of the State, and from the adjoining cities, so that it may be considered a State Institution. The Trustees having shown themselves good stewards, feel assured that a grant would not be misapplied.

2d. It is for the advantage of the State to enlarge the present academies, and place them on a more liberal foundation, rather than to erect at a greater expense high schools in each county, that would not impart any greater benefits, and from the want of boarding-houses have only a local value. It is also for the interest of the property holders in the State, who pay the greater part of the tax on education, to have such schools as Brookeville Academy will be under the new plan, where their children can be boarded and educated in secluded retirement, at a rate considerably less than other schools of no greater advantages charge, this reduction being made in consequence of the aid given by the State. This academy, from its central situation, its spacious grounds and ample accommodation for boarders, if the State build the other wing of the edifice, might be a High School for the adjoining counties that do not possess an academy, where, as one school could be supported at less expense than three, the charge for board and tuition would be at a most moderate rate, no extras of any kind being charged.

3rd. The academy might serve as a normal school for the education of teachers, and the principal might act as an examiner in a board of education established in the county at a less cost to the State.

4th. The trustees propose having under their individual charge, a model farm on a small scale with an orchard and vineyard, where the pupils may improve in agriculture, their labor on the farm and grounds being paid for at a fair rate. In connection with this department, there might be a carpenter's shop, where the boys could learn such mechanical work as might be of service on farms.

For these reasons, the Trustees respectfully solicit your aid considering that it is the true interest of the State to establish on a liberal foundation academies of this class, where at a moderate expense the youth can be thoroughly trained, so that hereafter they may wisely administer the affairs of the State, and develop its hidden resources.

By order and on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

A. B. DAVIS,
President.

